

SAVANNAH'S ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 26, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

I. Welcome and Introductions - Anne Roise (5 min)

II. Housekeeping (5 min)

- A. Updated Task Force Contact List / Sign-in Sheet
- B. Task Force Listserv - John Paul Berlon

III. Review of last meeting (5 min)

- A. July 22 Meeting Summary
- B. Official name of the Task Force

IV. Host Spotlight: DFCS – Charlotte Rehmer (10 min)

V. Reports from Sub-Committees

- 1. Living Wage – Alan Bray (10 min)
 - a. Task Force input
 - b. Next sub-committee meeting
- 2. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy (10 min)
 - a. Task Force input
 - b. Next sub-committee meeting
- 3. Resource Collaboration – John Paul Berlon (10 min)
 - a. Task Force input
 - b. Next sub-committee meeting

VI. Next Steps & Assignments (10 min)

VII. Information Sharing (time permitting)

- A. United Way's Community Challenge Grant
- B. Other announcements

VIII. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

September 23	St. Mary's Community Center
October 28	Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless
November 18*	United Way of the Coastal Empire

* Date moved to 3rd Tuesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

SAVANNAH'S ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE

Summary of Meeting

Tuesday, August 26, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Sr. Pat Baber, John Paul Berlon, Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi, Tina Bonifacio, Susan Bragg, Alan Bray, Rick Brown, Valerie Brown, Yolanda Fontaine, Yvonne Segar Davis, Judy Davis, Carole Fireall, Gwen Glover, Kendra Carter (for Alex Ikefuna), Barry Jackson, Hope Jones, Kathy Keith, Julie Lamy, Bernard Polite, Charlotte Rehmert, Anne Roise, Letty Shearer, Ruthann Walsh.

II. Housekeeping

- A. The Task Force contact list was circulated for corrections and additions.
- B. John Paul presented a handout, which explained how to access the taskforce and subcommittee list serves. The sub-committee list serves were established to reduce the amount of face-to-face meetings. You may contact or view information related to each sub-committee.
 - 1. The Resource Collaboration Subcommittee:
aptfresource@yahooogroups.com
 - 2. The Case Management Subcommittee:
aptfcasemgt@yahooogroups.com
 - 3. The Living Wage Subcommittee: TBAIf you have any questions about the list serve, please contact John Paul Berlon at johnpaul@savannahfairhousing.org or at 912-651-3132.

III. Review of last meeting

- A. The July 22 meeting summary was approved as presented.
- B. Based on feedback from Task Force members, the official name for the Force was changed from City of Savannah Anti-Poverty Task Force to Savannah's Anti-Poverty Task Force. John Paul asked if City approval is required for action by the Task Force. Anne reminded the Task Force of its original intent of finding barriers to poverty and recommending strategies to address the problem. Anne further explained that the Task Force is a deciding and/or voting body to Task Force issues; any action by the Task Force must be the consensus of the body. If such action by the Task Force affects any state or local agency, then consulting with that agency would be appropriate.

IV. Host Spotlight: DFCS

Susan Bragg presented the July 2003 report on TANF, Childcare, Medicaid and Food Stamp programs for Chatham County DFCS. Susan also provided a brief

overview of DFCS programs and services, which includes an on-site substance abuse, domestic violence and mental health counselor.

Debbie Bennett provided an overview of adult and child protective services for Chatham County DFCS. The adult protective services unit serves medically and/or physically disabled persons who are unable to care for themselves, while child protective workers investigate complaints of abused and/or neglected children. There are currently 110 registered foster parents, if you are interested in becoming a foster parent please contact the Chatham County DFCS office.

Charlotte Rehmer provided the Chatham County DFCS child welfare outcomes for 2001-2003. Please contact Charlotte Rehmer if you wish to obtain a copy of the report.

V. Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Living Wage

Alan Bray presented several handouts one of which discussed the committee's tasks for the next several months. The committee intends to research the following: (1) the federal poverty level, (2) self-sufficiency wage, (3) the cost of adopting a living wage, and (4) State Senate Committee movement on a state minimum wage. The committee also intends to research how a living wage has affected poverty in cities comparable to Savannah. Julie Lamy mentioned that quantitative research might be difficult to find since the majority of living wage ordinances are relatively new and have only affected a small portion of individuals in many cities. Tina Bonifacio suggested researching any correlation between increased living wages and cost-of-living. Anne Roise suggested that research should focus on developing a model for a living wage rather than targeting a specific group of employees. Anne and Charlotte recommended that the sub-committee host several forums for the industry and business community before any recommendations are presented. For handouts, contact Alan at abrav@thempc.org.

2. Case Management

Julie Lamy briefed the Task Force on the sub-committee's information collection initiative. Five agencies have come forward to participate in this initiative. The agencies are DFCS, EOA/Tom Austin House, St. Mary's Community Center, St. Pius X Family Resource Center/YFA and NIA. (Yolanda Fontaine volunteered HAS as a participating agency.) Each agency will survey families from existing caseloads in order to identify systemic and personal strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The results of the Family Survey will be presented to the Task Force at the October meeting.

- A. Several Task Force members expressed some concern about the initiative's selection criteria for families. Participating agencies will

meet prior to implementation to ensure consistency in the selection process.

- B. Sr. Pat and Julie reminded the Task Force of the sub-committee's intent to develop a community resource template for agencies. The information obtained from the sub-committee's initiative will be integral to the development of the template.
- C. Task Force members who are interested in joining the Case Management Systems sub-committee may contact Julie Lamy at 651-3653 or julie_lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us. The sub-committee's minutes are also posted on the listserve at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aptfcasemgt>>.

3. Resource Collaboration

John Paul handed out the sub-committee minutes and presented an overview of the purpose of the sub-committee. John Paul explained that the committee is currently accessing the accessibility of outreach materials and reviewing the feasibility of exporting resources from the current software used by United Way 211. For a copy of the resource collaboration sub-committee minutes, contact Yvonne Davis at yvonne_davis@ci.savannah.ga.us. United Way 211 placards may be obtained by contacting Janice Blunt at janiceb@uwce.org.

VI. Next Steps & Assignments

- A. The Living Wage Sub-committee will continue to research and compile information on living wage issues and its impact on poverty.
- B. The Case Management Systems Subcommittee will implement the Family Survey and compile results for the October meeting. Participating agencies will meet one more time before completing the surveys.
- C. The Resource Collaboration Sub-committee will move forward on a few initiatives, including:
 - Development of a PSA that will run on the LCD display located on Chatham Area Transit buses.
 - Determination of how community agencies fit on the Anti-Poverty Continuum developed by the Case Management sub-committee.
 - Contact agencies represented on the Task Force to ensure that United Way has the most up-to-date information.
 - Continue to assess the accessibility of outreach materials (TDD system and advertising/CAT).

VII. Information Sharing

- A. For information about the United Way Community Challenge Grant contact Ellen Hatcher at United Way of the Coastal Empire at 651-7700.
- B. The Savannah Entrepreneurial Center (SEC) will offer several classes for Savannah residents and business owners beginning in September. For more information, contact the SEC at 652-3582.
- C. The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce will host luncheons in September and October to discuss the development of Workforce Readiness Academies and the 2003 State of the Workforce Report. For more information contact Tina Bonifacio at tbonifacio@savannahchamber.com
- D. United Way has received funding to enroll eligible families into the PeachCare for Kids program. For more information, contact United Way at 651-7730 or to learn about PeachCare for Kids, visit www.peachcare.org

VIII. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

September 23	St. Mary's Community Center
October 28	Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless
November 18*	United Way of the Coastal Empire

* Date moved to 3rd Tuesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.